MBC Annual Meeting Schedule

R 4, 2007 Vol. 131 No. 39

8:25 Sounding of the Gavel	0.25	
Congregational Praise		PreludeOrganist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
Scripture Reading	8:30	Sounding of the GavelClarence Cooper
Prayer		Congregational PraiseLavon Gray
8:45 Organization of the Convention		Scripture ReadingBill Duncan
Recognition and Seating of Messengers Report of Committee on Order of Business		John Prepares the Way in Judea — Mark 1:2-8
Recognition and Seating of Messengers Report of Committee on Order of Business		PrayerGeorge Berger
Report of Committee on Order of Business	8:45	Organization of the ConventionClarence Cooper
Recognition of Tellers and Credentials Committee  Welcome from FBC, Jackson Stan Buckley 8:55 Congregational Praise Richard Blackaby 9:25 Report of Committee on Committees Greg Herndon 9:30 Presentation of Resolutions 9:35 Election of the President 10:00 Congregational Praise 10:05 Christian Action Commission Report 10:15 Baptist Children's Village Report Mickey Dalrymple 10:35 Convention Board Report Mickey Dalrymple 10:35 Congregational Praise 11:00 President's Address Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada 11:00 President's Address Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada 11:30 President's Address Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada 11:30 President's Address Benediction Courtney Selvy  Institute  Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Institute Inst		Recognition and Seating of Messengers  Report of Committee on Owler of Rusiness Gary Shows
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	BELLOT-FORD STREET STREET PRICES BARRIES
7:30 7:35 7:45 8:15	Congregational Praise
	day Morning, Fourth Session • October 31, 2007
8:25	PreludeWilliam Carey University Chorale
8:30	Sounding of the GavelDavid Hamilton
0.50	Congregational PraiseRandy Cuchens
	Scripture ReadingJim Harrington
	Church Empowered in Judea — Acts 2:14-20
	Prayer Allen Stephens
8:45	Bible TreasureRichard Blackaby
9:10	Report of Education CommissionJames Spencer
9:15	Memorial ServiceSteve Stone
9:25	Choral PraiseWilliam Carey University Chorale
9:35	Introduction of College PresidentsClarence Cooper
9:45	William Carey University ReportTommy King
9:55	TestimonyWayne Edwards
	God at Work in my Judea
10:10	Business Session
	Adoption of 2008 BudgetWeldon Aultman
	Committee on Nominations ReportMatt Buckles
	Time, Place & PreacherForrest Sheffield
	Resolutions Committee ReportJim Harrington
	Miscellaneous BusinessClarence Cooper
10:40	Congregational PraiseRandy Cuchens
10:45	Missions MobilizationKen Rhodes
10:55	Choral PraiseWilliam Carey University Chorale
11:00	Message Junior Hill
11:40	Benediction



### **EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK**

# **Pushing God to the limit**

ur God is indeed merciful and gracious toward us, but how much longer can He contain his wrath against a people that prey without conscience on His little ones?

Shared Hope International (SHI), an organization based in Vancouver, Wa, that seeks to combat the exploding market for "sex tourism" and the trafficking

of human beings for sexual exploitation, released a report on September 13 that concluded an estimated 100,000-300,000 American children are in danger of becoming victims of such sexual exploitation. "In the United States, inves-

tigations in Atlanta, Las Vegas, and Washington, D.C., found that large numbers of American children are prostituted on the streets, through escort services, and in pornography and erotic dancing and large numbers

American men are buying these services," according to SHI.

"The market for sex traf-

ficking and sex tourism is just like a shopping mall," noted Linda Smith, a former Member of Congress from Washington State who founded SHI. "Buyers can choose from a variety of human products of various ages and colors, and as long as buyers continue to purchase this human product and facilitators support the market, the shopping

mall stays open."

Many Mississippi Baptists may think such a situation is just too grotesque to be true, but it is true. The sexual exploitation of children is a multi-billion-dollar per year business in the U.S., according to the SHI report. Other SHI material indicates that 55% of all child pornography found on the Internet originates in this country.

recently returned from a

7,000 mile, three-and-a-

half week camping trip, my first since Katrina. I spent

every night in a campground

and engaged many people in conversation. During the

entire trip, only one person asked how things are on the

although most had learned I

from the forefront of their minds, a distant second to

Baptists and other Christians

who came to our aid — and continue to come - with finan-

Katrina was cooked by North

Carolina Baptist disaster relief

volunteers. They served many

thousands of meals in the

weeks that followed. North

Carolina Baptists and others

made long-term commitments

to our people on the Coast. Several weeks ago, our church dedicated Phase III, the final

stage in major rebuilding, to the glory of God! We had volunteer

groups from 15 states stay on our

property to help us and the com-

munity in the recovery process.

cial help and volunteers!

Hurricane Katrina is now far

Thank God for Southern

My first hot meal following

Mississippi

today's news.

was from there.

Gulf Coast,



"U.S. citizens and permanent residents under the age of 18 are increasingly being recruited into the commercial sex markets," the report states, with runaway children and underage females at particularly high risk.
The report estimates that the average age

of entry into prostitution or the commercial sex industry in the United States is 11-14 years old. Other conclusions in the report:

• In 2002, only 34% of prostitution arrests were of male consumers. The other 66% were of prostituted women and children.

• In Boston, for one example, there is a surplus of 11 females selling sex for every one male purchaser. Many of the prostitution arrests involve children.

 Seventy-five percent of minor girls in prostitution have a pimp, meaning that their participation in the commercial sex market is involuntary and coerced.

· Since 1997, the number of child

pornography images on the Internet has increased by 1,500%.

Interviews conducted by SHI with three minors lured into prostitution uncovered the startling detail that just these three minor sex trafficking victims were sold 10-15 times per night, six days a week, totaling between 9,360 and 14,040 sex acts in a year.
Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, who

has been battling this issue for some time, believes half of all prostitutes in her area are children, many as young as 11 years of age. "Metropolitan Atlanta has become a national hub for child prostitution and human trafficking," she wrote recently.

That's not Thailand, or Vietnam, or Costa Rica, or some faraway, impoverished country known for their commercial sex market. Atlanta is less than a day's drive from anywhere in Mississippi.

In our own state, there have been numerous confirmed reports in recent years of children being forced into sex acts for commercial purposes as well as simply for gratification. Many law enforcement professionals say with great confidence that the number of people caught for any given crime is usually only the tip of the iceberg. If that's true, just try to imagine what's really going on with Mississippi's and America's children.

Since we have reached the point in this country where we are consuming our own children for such lustful and perverted self-gratification, we should read the words of our Lord and Savior in Matthew 18:6, and Matthew 19:14, to understand our

ultimate fate. How long, O God? How much longer?

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## **GUEST OPINION:**



# Still a long way to go

By John Landrum, pastor Brodie Road Church, D'Iberville

One of the first groups was from Nebraska. They brought their supplies in their cattle trailers, including a full-size propane stove and a generator to run their freezer which was full of food so they could provide meals for their hard-

working team.

Another early team came from Oklahoma. They brought a load of safety equipment from a local provider which included everything they (and we) would need to do "mud-outs" in flooded houses. They brought so much that we were able to share the supplies with two sheriff's departments.

The president of the company that makes OdoBan odor eliminator and disinfectant found out we were successfully using his company's product and sent 600 gallons for our use and to distribute to others. We were told our church had the only odor ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention.

One team brought temporary showers, made from PVC pipe and tarps, that could be hooked up to garden hoses. The cool water felt mighty good after a long day's work in the 95 degrees-plus weather! By Thanksgiving, a church in North Carolina had built us a self-contained, 45-foot shower trailer with six showers plus three vanities each for men and women.

Volunteers came — from California to Nantucket, from Minnesota to Alabama, and points in between. Others helped financially. It has taken two years, but by the grace of God and the help of fellow Christians, our facilities had

never looked or been better! I agree with the statement in a recent issue of The Baptist Record by Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, that we still have a long way to go on the Coast. It will be years before some people are back in their homes and some churches are rebuilt. Literally thousands of people are falling through the cracks and still need our help. Wouldn't it be great if every town in Mississippi would rebuild one house for one family?

Thank you, Southern Baptists — and especially Jim Futral and our Mississippi Baptist Convention staff — for your invaluable help! It is wonderful to be part of such a great family. We are looking forward to returning some of the bless-ings through our participation in the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

Landrum may be contacted at P.O. Box 6006, D'Iberville, MS 39540. E-mail: chaplandrum@yahoo.com.

# 'Emerging church' subject of conference

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The emerging church movement has arisen to fill a void created by the ineffectiveness of most conventional churches in spreading the Gospel, researcher-missiologist Ed Stetzer said at a Sept. 21-22 "Convergent" conference at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Stetzer and Mark Driscoll, pastor of Mars Hill Church in Seattle and president of the Acts 29 Network for church planting, were among the conference's featured speakers. Driscoll's church is not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention or any other denomination, and he has been controversial for, among other things, his consumption of alcohol.

Before comparing the orthodoxy of conventional churches and emerging churches, Stetzer challenged the crowd of 500-plus pastors, church planters and seminarians to ask what has prompted the need for alternative churches.

As director of LifeWay Research and missiologist-in-residence at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Stetzer said Southern Baptist churches are not evidencing healthy growth.

While many churches note increases, very little of that growth comes from evangelistic conversion, he said. "If we're not growing through seeing men and women come to faith in Christ, then something's wrong."

From Luke 24 he identified three things churches must recover to stay on mission: the centrality of the cross, the message of repentance for forgiveness of sins, and the importance of the witness.

Stetzer spoke of some pastors who seem to convey, "This is my Bible and I'll never refer to it again," lacking confidence in the

Gospel's power to change lives.
Without the Gospel front and center, Christians give up on the church, he said, and he challenged such disengagement by declaring, "I know the bride of

Christ is not pretty, but you cannot love Jesus and hate His wife."

A new class has arisen of the formerly churched, Stetzer continued, calling this young crowd "the pajama jehideen, sleeping 'til noon every day, living in Mom's basement, attacking anything that will try to

ing anything that will try to reach anyone for Jesus Christ."

Whether in a Louisville gathering of artists with their black T-shirts, holey jeans and blond spiked hair — all "individuals who don't want to be squeezed into a mold" — or an Oklahoma City cowboy church interjecting "yee-haw" between stanzas of Victory in Jesus, Stetzer said God is at work in biblically faithful churches transforming lives through repentance and forgiveness.

repentance and forgiveness.

"If our desire is to create a denomination where everyone looks alike, everyone worships in the same way, everyone does all the cultural, traditional trappings, and we call that biblically faithful, we will never reach beyond the narrow, cultural confines that have defined us," Stetzer warned.

"If we are going to reach men and women from every tongue, tribe and nation, it is going to take all kinds of scripturally sound churches to reach

all kinds of people."

Instead of being upset about emerging churches or the influence of "first, second, and third John," referring to three famous Reformed theology preachers named John — Calvin, Piper, and MacArthur — Stetzer called on Southern Baptists to affirm their faith statement and share their witness for Christ.

"Whether conventional, traditional, emerging, Calvinist, or a little less so, just get on mission and be faithful to the Gospel."

Driscoll previewed some of the research he compiled on the increasingly liberal views of the left-leaning Emergent Village, to be published first in the Christian Research Journal and subsequently as a book by Crossway.

quently as a book by Crossway.

He said Emergents are rewriting what it means to be a Christian by abandoning substitutionary atonement when they avoid speaking of the

cross in reference to sin. Driscoll said some Emergents like Brian McLaren prefer to "plead the fifth" when asked if the practice of homosexual acts is compatible with the Christian faith. Driscoll said when McClaren was asked about his position on homosexual marriage, his answer was, "'You know what? The thing that breaks my heart is that there is no way I can answer it without hurting someone on either side.' To which I would respond, 'Now you have hurt God.' God is in heaven, and He has spoken to this issue with great clarity."

Driscoll also noted McClaren's endorsement of the Jesus Seminar, an academic group that denies the historicity of the resurrection. This view diminishes the impact of Jesus' crucifixion on a sinful society and negates the need for His substitutionary atonement for sin, Driscoll said.

"There is nothing that we have to offer apart from the person of Jesus and His work on the cross," Driscoll said. "So if the cross is lost, Christianity is lost, and hope is lost and Christ is lost. That means that, ultimately, we are lost. So this issue of the atonement is incredibly important."

incredibly important."

Driscoll said some of those he analyzed also support controversial doctrines such as open theism and process theology; they hold to a "trajectory hermeneutic" that allows doctrine to evolve; they shift from a complementarian to an egalitarian view of male leadership

in biblical matters; and some even deny the virgin birth.

"Might I submit to you if you are thirsty for insight on theology, you not drink from the toilet even though there is water there," he told the conference crowd.

Borrowing from Stetzer's method of categorizing emerging church leaders, Driscoll placed McLaren, Doug Pagitt, and Rob Bell within the "revisionist stream" identified with the Emergent Village, while Dan Kimball and Blue Like Jazz author Donald Miller are in a milder "cool church crowd," labeled "relevants," who "are not necessarily trying to rewrite theology, but offer innovative methods of ministry."

methods of ministry."

A third stream, the "relevant reformed," are "confessional, contextual, cool Calvinists," Driscoll said. "That's my team," encompassing the Acts 29 Network and such leaders as C.J. Mahaney, Josh Nelson, and Matt Chandler who engage in expositional Bible preaching and teaching that is theologically motivated.

Driscoll said some are slightly charismatic in that they raise their hands "and sing songs that aren't on the cutting edge of the 18th century."

Driscoll said this more orthodox group agrees that old ministry methods aren't working as the world has shifted from the assumptions of modernity. They are concerned that churches are struggling, he said, and that lost people are not coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus in the numbers they would envision.

Alvin Reid, an evangelism

Alvin Reid, an evangelism professor at Southeastern Seminary, told the conference that too many Southern Baptists think there is a direct correspondence between "how we look and how we believe"—and both are unchanging.

"If the 1950s come back, a lot of our churches will be ready," predicted Reid, urging contextualization of the Gospel without compromising doctrine. "One does not have to sacrifice orthodoxy for orthopraxy or vice versa," he said.



# BAPTISTS

# THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

**PUBLISHED SINCE 1877** 

OCTOBER 4, 2007 Vol. 131 No. 39

# Mormons Christian?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A slim majority of Americans believe Mormonism is a "Christian religion," although a slight majority of white evangelicals who regularly attend church think otherwise, according to a new poll conducted by the Pew Research Center and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. The poll found that American adults, by a margin of 52-31%, believe Mormonism is a "Christian religion," but among white evangelicals who attend church at least weekly, the data is just the opposite — 52% say Mormonism is not Christian. The study was conducted in August among 3,002 adults. Pew did not release data on the beliefs of all evangelicals across all races. Significantly, people were categorized as evangelical simply by saying they would identify themselves as either being "bornagain" or "evangelical." Robert Bowman Jr., a Southern Baptist apologist and an expert on Mormonism, said Mormonism is not a "valid, authentic, faithful expression of the Christian faith." He serves as the manager of the apologetics and interfaith evangelism team for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "From an evangelical perspective, Mormonism is not faithfully or soundly Christian because it deviates from historic, biblical standards of orthodox Christianity," Bowman told Baptist Press in a statement. "For example, Mormonism teaches that God the Father is an exalted Man, that Jesus, angels, and human beings were all the literal spirit offspring of our 'heavenly Father and Mother,' and that the ultimate goal of the Christian life is to become exalted to Godhood ourselves."

### Looking back

### 10 years age

James W. Edwards resigns from his positions of chancellor and chief executive officer of William Carey College in Hattiesburg in the aftermath of an investigation that concluded that he "falsely represented" information on a 1994 grant application.

### 20 years ago

Mississippi College honors one of its top ambassadors by naming the auditorium in Nelson Hall, the main administration building on campus, the Chester E. Swor Auditorium, providing a permanent tribute to the nationally-recognized author and religious counselor.

### 50 years ago

William Carey College reports an enrollment of 383 students for the fall semester, with a majority of students — 207 — being men.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.

  (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

### SPEAK SO PEOPLE MAY UNDERSTAND

I was speaking at a conference out in the western part of our nation and had an interesting visit with a lady who was there at the meeting. I had preached several times at the event, met her and her husband, and we had a delightful time getting to know one another. The conference was over and I was visiting with them as we were about to leave when the lady asked me, "Could I ask you a question?" I said, "Why certainly." She said, "Have you ever gone to a speech therapist?" I do not believe I have ever been asked that before but I responded and said, "No Ma'am, I haven't." Then she followed up by asking, "Well, have you ever thought about going to a speech therapist?" I said, "Well, as a matter of fact I haven't. Why would you ask?" She said, "Well, if you would go to a speech therapist they could probably help you." I said, "I am sure they could but if you do not mind me asking, help me do what?" She said, "Well, a speech therapist could probably work with you and help you not to sound so Southern." I said, "Oh!"





Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

This lady and her husband who were from California apparently did not connect with all of my Southern dialect. I said, "Well, if I go to a speech therapist and they help me what will I sound like?" With a big smile on her face she said, "Well, you would sound more like me." Just so we would even the playing field I said, "Well, that is exactly the reason why I have never considered going to a speech therapist." We both laughed and then I explained to her that I was born, raised, lived, and probably would die in the heart of the South. "While I may not be as cultured as some Southerners may be or as rednecked as others," I said, "I generally speak the language of the great people around me in my state and in my region of the world. At least for the purpose

of changing my dialect I probably will not be working with a speech therapist." With a chuckle in her voice yet with a slight seriousness she said, "Oh, I was just trying to help." I thanked her and went on my way.

I chalked it up as a first of its kind, maybe an only time kind of event. Later I thought about what she had said and what I needed to do. I suppose that if I were going to preach a whole lot in California or move to California I would need to have my speech checked and possibly my brain. However, believing that God has brought me here and wants me to continue serving Him in this locale I will probably arrive in heaven with my Southern speech patterns. For me that is fine because I am not sure that Louis Grizzard, the writer, wasn't right when he frequently used to say

about his strong Georgia drawl that he believed that was the way God talked.

Now to be perfectly honest about it, I believe what the speech people need to hear and understand is not Southern, Californian, Northern, or some other countries' language or dialect but a clear understanding of the love of God for them in their heart language. In the book of Nehemiah, the Scripture says that Ezra opened the book of the law and read from it, "And He gave the sense thereof." What Ezra was doing was helping the folks to understand what God was saying to their hearts in their understandable language.

It is not always easy to convey the truth of God so that they will be able to grasp it because their understanding may be limited and oftentimes our ability to articulate it is limited. I pray for our pastors, and I pray for myself that God would give me a right, clear word from His Word wrapped in the power of His Spirit that people may be able to receive, understand, and respond to what God is saying.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205—0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

### UST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bible Buddies, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

- 1. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, recognizes its Bible Buddies. Shown are Clark Dean, Eddie Cappeli, Becca Cappeli, Hannah Smith, Kimberly Clark, and Haley Smith.
- Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, recently ordained Robert Morris as a deacon. Shown are Billy Henry, Leroy Callahan Sr., Cindy Morris, Morris, and pastor John Vaughn.
- 3. Tommy Smith, a counselor with Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries **Professional Pathways** Counseling and Mississippi native has written a novel, The War of the Lords: Mystery of the Genesis and the Final Battle of Lower Earth. The book is available at LifeWay Christian Stores and other places where books are sold.
- The GAs of Slayden Church, Slayden, collected supplies for Central Baptist Mission Center, Akron, Oh., for Christmas in August. Shown are the participants.



2. Morris ordained as deacon, Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie

5. Branch
Church,
Morton, recognized
Brittany
Tagert for her
accomplishments this
past year in
Acteens.



Taggert

 First Church, Wiggins, ordained three new deacons Sept. 2. Shown, top row, are Ralph Sanders, pastor Wiley Abel, and Duncan Hatten; bottom row, new deacons Carl Breland, Gailen Morrison, and Clark Lardner.



4. GAs collect supplies, Slayden Church, Slayden



6. Deacon Ordination, First Church, Wiggins

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

October 4, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

# Come apart before you come apart! Ministers' Mates Luncheon and Ministers' Wives Conference

Monday, October 29, 2007

CAMPGARAYWA

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Garaywa Conference: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Garaywa

Ministers' Mates Luncheon

Testimony: Linnie Scarborough (a minister's mate)

Music: Ever Praise

Rebecca Cooper, Lori Schuler, Kathie Sorensen



Ministers' Wives Conference Special speaker: Rita Sweatt

PRERESERVATIONS for lunch are required. Cost: \$7 per person. Lunch and Registration Deadline: Monday, October 22.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about lunch, contact wMu Department, Kathy Burns (kburns@mbcb.org or 601-292-3324) or about the conference, contact Pastor/Leadership Development Department, Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601-292-3305).

### DEACON MINISTRY EMPHASIS

**Deacon Ministry Emphasis** is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involve deacon training and service.

The Purpose of Deacon Emphasis is to:

ocus on their biblical role Build team relationships

January 2008 is designated by the MBCB as the month to emphasize deacon ministry, however it may be conducted at any time during the year.

For information, contact: Pastor/Leadership Development, Keith Gordon, 601-968-3800, extension 307, or 1-800-748-1651

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

## 2008 Christian Education Clinics



Highland Baptist Church, Meridian February 9, 2008

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison March 8, 2008

It is the desire of Mississippi Baptists to offer quality training for those who affect the lives of Mississippi's most precious citizens. Please make plans to attend the 2008 clinic of your choice. If you have any questions, please call the numbers listed below.

Susie McNair, clinic coordinator, Christian Education Clinics Tel: 601.954.8650; E-mail: gsmcnair@yahoo.com

Sponsored by the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

A brochure with the registration form will be mailed later this year.

## Bivo/Small Church Ministers & Wives Retreat

Providing a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship

November 30 - December 1

Emmanual BC, Grenada

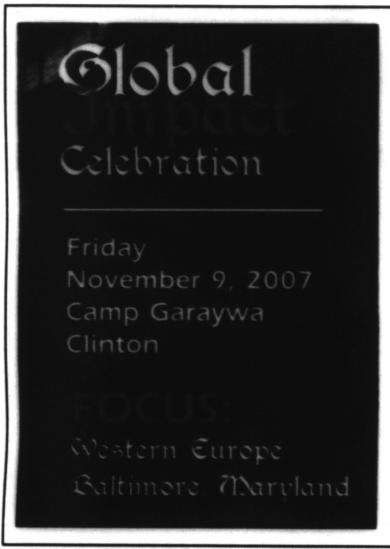
Lodging: Holiday Inn, Express

Leaders:

Brian Pression
Joel Medina

Contact Lowell Ingram, 662-226-5071, for info on scholarships, and contact the Holiday Inn Express, 662-226-5071, Grenada, Miss., for info on lodging.

Sponsored by: Pastor/Leadership Development Department



Special Quests:

### **ROGER KIM**

Church Planter, Grace Life, Baltimore, Md.

### **RUSTY ALUMS**

Western Europe, IMB Representative

8chedule

### 5 - 6:15 p.m.

Mega Focus City Cluster Meetings Western Europe, Representatives Reception

### 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Special Guests: Roger Kim, Baltimore Rusty Alums, Western Europe

### 7:45 - 9 p.m. Break-out Groups

Church Planting – Roger Kim Western Europe Focus – Rusty Alums Evening Meal - \$10

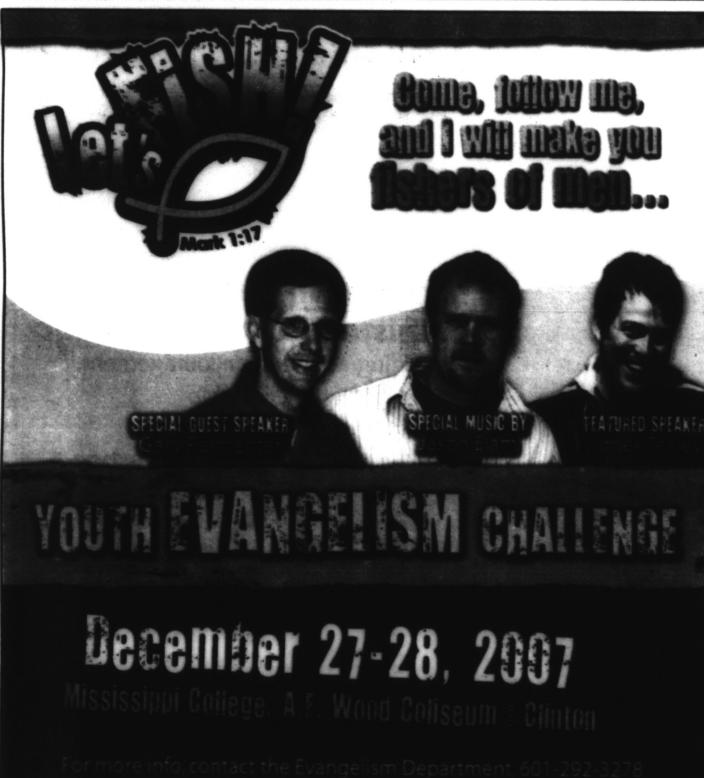
# Global Impact Celebration No charge

### Lodging

Guest House: \$16 per person Patterson Place: \$40 per person (single occupancy) \$35 per person

(double occupancy)

Contact Beverly Bridges in the Missions Mobilization Department for registration information. 601-292-3398 1-800-748-1651 bbridges@mbcb.org YOUTH



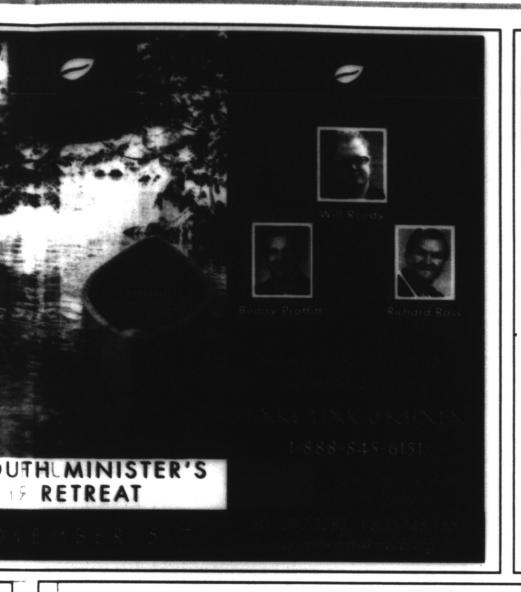


SYMPHONY PCHESTRA

> October 21, 6 p.m. First Baptist Church West Point

For info, contact the Church Music Department: 601-292-3266, 1-800-748-1651





# ISSUES FACING PASTORS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A presentation and dialogue sponsored by

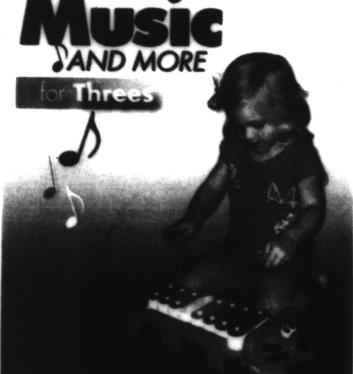
- Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (MBCB)
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Our Three Mississippi Baptist Colleges

October 22 – William Carey University October 23 – Mississippi College Time (all locations): 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch provided by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department

Register by contacting Kay McDonnell at 601-292-3305, Fax 601-714-7426 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

# INTRODUCING A NEW CURRICULUM FOR 3-YEAR-OLD CHOIRS

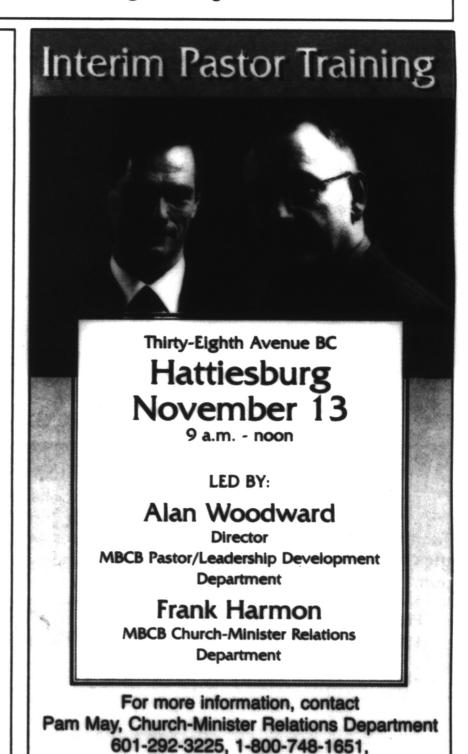


September thru May lesson plans, music, accompaniment CD, and art patterns for the teacher of 3-year-olds.

### Music and More for Three's \$25 per set (includes printed set and CD) \$2 shipping per set

Written by Debbie Wren, Brandon, Miss., Area Music Clinician, Church Music Department, MBCB Edited by Sarah Talley, Contract Children's Choir Consultant, Church Music Department, MBCB Produced by Church Music Department, L. Graham Smith, Church Music Department Director, MBCB

For more info and ordering info, contact the Church Music Department: 601-292-3266, 1-800-748-1651, or E-mail palford@mbcb.org.



or E-mail pmay@mbcb.org

# Pray this day for ...

# October 5 - October 25, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

A little boy when invited to comment on the statement. Faith is having confidence in what God has spoken. said. "God has confidence in what He has said - so must we."

The Asheninia Strategy Group of Peru asis: "Fray for believers in The Asheninia community of Lagarto, where they are ready to take steps to form their new church. They are ready to construct a meeting place. Enthusiasm is high for the things of God. Pray that a solid leader will arise among them, and that we will be able to train him in leadership and church planting.

(1) World Hunger (CAC Emphasis); (2) Pray for wisdom among the believers in Mongolia. Pray that they will desire to know God above all else. Many here are led astray by the "healthwealth, name-it-claimit" doctrine that is being taught by some. Pray that there will be good, solid teaching from the World of God.

Churches of all denominations in Hungary have developed their own traditions and way of doing things. In the beginning, they met the needs of the people and brought them closer to the Lord. Now all the denominations are stringgling, and most are declining in membership. Pray that the churches will do whatever it takes to win the lost, without compromising the truth of Scripture. (1) Sunday School Outreach Conference, Crossgates BC. Brandon (SS); (2) Missionary apprentices Michael and Cynthia Fore write: "We have seen a wonderful increase in personal evangelism encouniers in our family ministry. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us to be bold witnesses for Christ wherever we may be."

On the Island of Lasa in the Pacific Rim, a Lasa man named M met S, a believer. As they began to talk, M realized that he had heard of S through his family who live in a village where S had been sharing the gospel. This resulted in an immediate bond between them. S was able to share a copy of the "Jesus" film and a copy of Luke with M. Prays film and a copy of Luke with M. Prays that the seeds shared in MS heart will be watered and grow.

The Bible Schools Team of Tanzania asks; "Pray for one particular school that is experiencing leadership problems. We have had no communication with this school for some considerable time. They do not respond or send requested reports. Pray for obedience to the Lord's direction and willingness to submit to one another in a spirit of unity.

(1) Sunday School Outreach
Conference, FBC, Pontoto (SS); (2)
OneStory is a massive project that is
affecting the population of North Africa
and the Horn of Africa. Many involved
in OneStory have spert the summer in
intensive language study. As they
return to Paris and begin their fall ministries, pray that the Chronological
Bible stories that have been developed
will be shared with clarity.

Pray for a village in a Bangalore, India, rural district in which almost every person is addicted to alcohol. Disease and poverty abound. The community health staff from Bangalore Baptist Hospital Staff, including a chaplain, visits here regularly. Pray that through the medical ministry, the light of Jesus will come to this village and the chains that bind them will be broken.

(1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (2) Ask God to send a couple to work with a group of people who are very open to the Gospel in Chuabo of Mozambique. Pray for this couple to come and help missionaries John and Wanne Dina as they work to help this group.

Stan Pierce is an associational missionary br the Hudson Association in Schenectady, N.Y. Praise God for the 15 new churches since 2000 Pray for two new churches (River of Life and Heartland Community) that began worship services this fall.

(1) WMLJ National Training Event 17th-30th; Little Rock, Ark. (WMU); (2) Oliver Hawkins in Morrow, Ohio, is a church and community missionary. Pray for follow up to the July 2007 World Changers project, for a new church plant and for volunteers for World Changers power plant, sports camps and construction projects in Cincinnati next summer.

Pray that the veil of darkness will fall from the eyes of the Nylka people of Zambia so the light of Jesus may shine brightly. As surveying and initial evangelistic work will soon begin in Nylka villages, pray that there will be men and women open and ready to hear the truth. Please pray for discernment in where to go and with will apply to speak, and for wisdom in what words to share.

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(1) Sunday School Cultreach
Conference, FBC, McComb (SS); (2)
Continue to pray that the translation
of the Susu New Testament of Guinea
will soon he printed. Ask that all will
go smoothly, and thic there will be
no mishaps or mispirities in the printing process. Pray that the newly printed New Testaments can be sent to
Guinea as soon as possible and

The language of the 130,000 Salar people of China has been unwritten. Pray that the script that has been developed will gain acceptance among educated Salar so that the bible and other spiritual materials can be produced and read in the Salar language.

Guinea as soon as possible and tremendously impact the Susu people.

Barbara Greenfield of Princeton, Ky., is an MSC director of Bright Life Farms, home to 16 mentally and/or developmentally challenged adults. Fraise the Lord for the gifted mission teams who came this year. Pray for strength for the staff to serve with Christian love.

(1) Pray for Church Library Ministry Conferenc; 5th-6th, FBC, Broothaven; (2) Jim Ramsey is an Army chaplain serving with the US Calvary, deployed in Iraq. Praise God for his plotection and his blessing of spiritual fruit in the lives of soldiers facing death on a daily basis. Pray for spiritual awakening among the troops.

(1) Extrordinary Women's Conferece, FBC, Jackson, 12th-13th; (2) Gwembe Baptist Church of Batonga, Zambia, is in a growing phase. They are planning to build a place of worship and are growing in number. They have recently chosen an excellent leader, W. Continue to pray that Gwembe Baptist Church will move forward in the work of the Lord.

(1) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (MMU); [2] A young, dynamic couple from the capital city of Basse-Time, Gundeloupe, have recently prajed to receive Christ. God is speaking to their hearts about business relationships and the need to deepen their family commitment in simple things like praying before meals. Pray that they will respond to God's call about believer's baptism.

Sao Paulo, Brazil, is a huge city with more than 19 million people. Approximately 3.1 percent of them are considered evangelical. The poor live in areas where it can be damerous to walk the streets. The initially and upper class live behind walls. It is almost impossible to gain entrance. Pray for more people to be called to work in such mega-cities.

Missionary kids in Malawi are often homeschooled, which provides numerous benefits but also challenges, Pray for the MKs in Malawi as some Lilongwe missionaries work to divelop ways to give an extra hand to missionary parents who are nomeschooling. Pray for logistics to work out well and for the Mks to have a great time of learning and fun.

Pray for these four bright young Uruguayan deaf Christians, M, M, D and R. These young people, very dedicated to the Lord, are teaching other deaf, and could be future leaders. Fray for their spiritual growth and understanding, and for their protection.

# Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Annual Meeting & Banquet



Skyroom, Baptist Building
October 30, 4:45 - 6:30 p.m.
ALL CAREER AND VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS
are invited to join us for dinner and fellowship.

Charles "Chuck" Register, pastor, FBC Gulfport
"ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY"

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

The banquet is no cost to chaplains and spouses who have paid their dues to the Chaplains' Association for 2007-2008. For non-members of the association, the cost is \$10 each.

FOR RESERVATIONS, contact Carol Wright, Men's Ministry, MBCB, 601-292-3334, or 1-800-748-1651, E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

Please make reservations by October 23.

### ENCOURAGE AN MK TODAY WITH A CARD!

12/4/86 MISS KATIE R. GRAY Parents: Tony & Karen, South America

12/6/88 MISS MARISA M. WOMBLE Parents: Freddie & Karen, South America

12/21/02 MISS ABIGAIL PATTERSON Parents: Tim & Dorcas, Restricted

12/27/02 MISS SOPHIE JOHNSON Parents: Daron & Judy, Restricted

12/27/89 MR LUCAS ALEXANDER
Parents: Mark & Karen, South America

12/29/92 MISS LAURA LITTLE Parents: Bob & Amy, West Africa

12/30/91 MR BENJAMIN AUSTIN
Parents: Arnold & Susie, South America

Due to security reasons, full names or region of service may not be published.

DECEMBER

Due to security reasons in many countries, cards should not include any wording referencing church, Christian, God, missionary, etc.

Cards will be forwarded. No magazines or periodicals can be forwarded.

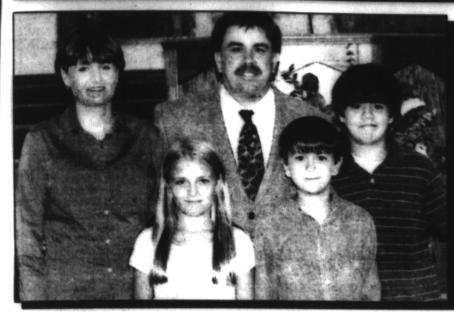
Please send all to

Child's name, Parent's name MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

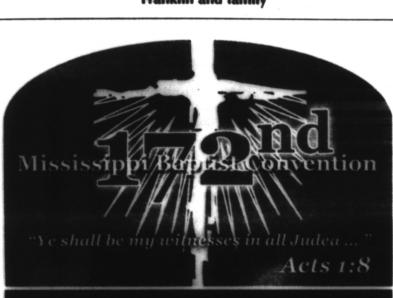
PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.



### STAFF CHANGES



Franklin and family



**Evergreen Church, Shubuta,** recently called John David Franklin as pastor. Shown are Tammi Franklin, Franklin, and Tyler, Gabbi, and Wesley Franklin.

First Church, Biloxi has called Argile A. Smith as pastor. Smith, a native of Poplarville, is married to the former Connie Kathleen Saucier and they have three grown sons: Joshua, David, and Dustin. He holds degrees from New Orleans Seminary, University of Southern Mississippi, and William Carey College, and has pastored churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. He comes from William Carey College, where he served as Vice President of Advancement.



Smith

### College & Seminary News

The Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing at William Carey University recently announced that Vicky Cabaniss Walley has earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) after successfully completing a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the New York Citybased National League for Nursing.

Baptist Healthplex members can work out, hang out or just chill as the \$12 million facility at Mississippi College gears up for a major milestone, its 10th anniversary next month. Everybody connected with the fitness complex off the Clinton Parkway is invited to be part of the celebration on the Clinton campus Oct. 8. Today, bursting at the seams with 4,900 members, including 1,500 MC students, state-of-the-art equipment, meeting rooms, the Baptist Medical Clinic and much more.

The Mississippi alumni chapter of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will meet for a reunion on Oct. 30 in Jackson. Seminary President Chuck Kelley will be the featured speaker at the noon event at the First Church, Jackson, in its Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Ben James at (601) 885-6717 or benjames@bellsouth.net.

# Bibliocipher By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004 copyrighted 2005

CEL JVVGAEU ZTVE

DONZN CN XO SCJGOL,

XO NCAPX, FOXVJL PXO

JCBF VR UVL!

**DVXE VEO: PXAYPQ-NAK** 

Clue: F = B
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Forty: Eight.





# MISSISSIPPI

FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS EARN UP TO: 8.25%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

**Interest Payable Quarterly** This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by propectus only.

### ATION INVESTMENT CORP.

5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109 Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the articulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before ou invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

PO Box 1302 ton, AR 72018-1302

900-468-3007 501-316-3100 Fax 501-316-3110

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Antioch Church, Quitman: 150th anniversary, Oct. 7; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing and sharing.

Benton Church, Benton: Homecoming, Oct. 7; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Roy Hawkins, speaker; Charles Moore, pastor.

Calvary Church, Newton: Homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and music, 1:30 p.m.; Glen Davis, speaker; Marvin and Gracie Wilson, music.

First Church, Columbus: 175th anniversary, Oct. 6-7; Sat., 10:30 a.m. fellowship, tours, followed by lunch and worship; Sun., Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; worship and music, 2 p.m.; Joe McKeever and Bobby Douglas, speakers; Shawn Parker, pastor.

First Church, Houlka: Revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Junior Ritchey, speaker; Melinda Kopp, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

First Church, Lauderdale: Revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Malcolm Lewis, speaker; Max Burris, music; Ryan Culpepper, pastor.

First Church, Moss: Homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon service of memories and singing; call (601) 649-1582, 649-0258, or 764-6829 for information.

**Harmony Church, Lincoln Association:** Revival, Oct. 4-7, Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bendon Ginn, speaker; Larry Eickenloff, pastor.

Hopewell Church, Scott County: Revival, Oct. 7-10; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; afternoon services, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gordon Sansing, speaker; Dan Harrison, music; Ed Crowley, pastor.

Louin Church, Louin: Homecoming, Oct. 14; luncheon following services; Mark Bullock, pastor and speaker; Ray Pugh and Auzlia Ishee, music. For more information, call (601) 739-3707.

McAdams Church, Attala Association: Homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by cov-ered dish lunch; J.W. Brand and Carolyn Brand, music.

McClellan Road Church, Latimer Community: Homecoming, Oct. 7; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and afternoon services; Breaux Tageant, speaker; Railroad Creek Bluegrass Singers, Victory Singers, and Joe Stallings, music.

McCool Church, McCool: Homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Avery Dixon, pastor and speaker.

Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale: Homecoming, Oct. 7; worship service, 10:30 a.m., followed by dedication of new fellowship hall, lunch, and concert by 4 Grace; Joey Barnard, pastor.

Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty: Revival, Oct. 4-7; Thurs.-Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m,

followed by dinner on the grounds.; Odus Jackson, Chubby Lowery, Larry Blades, and Clint Penalber, speakers; Clint and Laura Penalber, music; Clint Penalber, pastor.

New Hope Church, McComb: Oct. 15-17, 7 p.m.; Fred Luter, speaker; J. Wesley Jones, pastor.

New Hope Church, Natchez: Homecoming, Oct. 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and singing, 1:30 p.m.; B.L. Calcote, speaker; Hosanna, music; Thomas Foster, pastor.

Shalom Church, Silver Creek: Revival, Oct. 7-10; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Burnham, speaker; Donald Walker, music; Dan Ainsworth, pastor.

Siloam Church, West Point: Homecoming, Oct. 14; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; David Mahaffey, speaker; Ginger Fowler, music.

Union Church, Roxie: Homecoming and Revival, Oct. 7-9; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Tue., 7 p.m.; Lee Shipp, speaker; Andy McDaniel, pastor.

Union Church, Tylertown: Homecoming, Oct. 12 and 14; Fri., 7 p.m., followed by fellowship; Sun., 9:45 a.m. with music by Dogwood; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal.

Willow Grove Church, Collins: Centennial celebration, Oct. 14; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship; Lee Faler, speaker; Rocky Holston, pastor.



Baptist

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Quality is Job One **Matthew 5:1-12** 

By Alice Smith

"The Beatitudes" are beautiful, poetic, and challenging. They have inspired the hearts of multitudes through the centuries. Do we view these verses as ideal, nebulous words describing characteristics beyond our reach? But these are Jesus' words, a "keynote address" heralding a new age which He came to introduce and teach to those who choose to follow Him. The verses tell of God's approval for those who willingly place them-selves under His control and give Him dominion (leadership) over their lives. The Beatitudes are begun with the word, "Blessed." Commentaries say that "this word does not describe one's inner feeling about himself, but his state of blessedness as seen by

Jesus. The meaning

intended may be expressed as, 'Oh, the happiness of.'"

Looking at this study through the eyes of commentaries such as "The Amplified." taries such as "The Amplified New Testament," and the "Broadman Commentary" may shed more light on Matthew 5:3-12.

· "Poor in Spirit" is said of people who have life-joy and contentment because of the favor of God and his salvation, regardless of their outward conditions. It is the humble servants of God, rating themselves insignificant. These are those who are spiritually on their faces before their mighty God all the time, recognizing His great gift and grace. They will see the Kingdom of Heaven because of their recognition of God's Grace and their spiritual poverty.



"Those Mourn" refers to people living out their lives by the revelation of His matchless grace. In this context, mourning is the grief that follows one's realization of his spiritual impoverishment and thus experiences sorrow over his sin, and also mourns over the world's

sin. Those who are particularly sensitive to sin in themselves and in the world, who are deeply impacted by the depravity and cruelty of men, are comforted by lesus and carried into the presence of a God of compassion, a friend of sinners, into an eternal life of justice and truth.

 "The Meek," are not weak and cowardly. This attribute describes those who deliberately bend their wills, and set aside their own desires as they come into the presence of God and experience his greatness and grace. This is a beautiful grace and describes Jesus' character as we associate it with "lowliness of heart." It is the opposite of Pride, considered by Jesus as being one of the cardinal sins.

 "Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," describes people who crave the righteousness of God so intensely that the craving can intensely that the craving can be compared to the physical hunger and thirst of people who are literally dying for the need of physical nourishment. They yearn for victory of right over wrong. They will be filled with the knowledge that God's righteousness will prevail.

• "The Merciful." It is the nature of mercy and foreive-

nature of mercy and forgiveness that there cannot be receiving without giving. That thing in a person which renders him incapable of being merciful or forgiving creates a hardness of heart that renders him incapable of receiving mercy or forgiveness. Mercy can be given only when we recognize our need of it for ourselves.

• "Pure in Heart." Jesus brushed aside the requirements of ritual cleansing that meant purity. He went to the real purity—that of the heart. The heart stood for the whole inner self — mind as well as feeling. It is the concentration of the whole self upon God. The result is that He will surely see you. The outward life of words and deeds will reflect the inner purity of a person.
• "The Peacemakers." Jesus is

the "Prince of Peace." He is our Peace. Peacemaking is positive and active. Jesus came to replace chaos with order, hate with love. It is harmony with man through harmony with God.

 "Persecuted for righteousness." The distinction of persecution and the blessedness come only when the suffering is for Christ and His righteousness. Watch out let us examine ourselves. One may be opposed because he is wrong, wicked, or simply a disturber. For those who truly suffer for truth and right, there is reward in heaven.

We must ask ourselves continually how many of these characteristics are true of us.

Smith is a member of First Church, Jackson.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Watch Your Words Matthew 12:22-37

By Michael Smith

From church to church across the landscape of America, faithful saints of God are decrying what they view as a pervasive sense of apathy within our culture. The church's indictment against the culture of the day is that of indifference and apathy. "People just seem not to care about anything these days." They, according to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, lack passion, emo-tion, or excitement. Many church leaders contend that the culture in which we live and minister is pervasively indifferent to the Gospel. With all due respect, I disagree with that assessment of our culture. It is my contention that our culture is indeed passionate, especially about its opposition to the Gospel.

Atheism is making a fanciful comeback. Prominent atheist schol-

ars and authors are dominating the lecture circuit and frequenting mainline news shows. Books entitled The God Delusion and The End of Faith are occupying best seller lists. The popular atheists of the day are anything but apathetic; they are zealous in their denial of God and in their opposition to the Gospel. The contemporary resurgence of atheism is merely a new flavor of an old favorite. Those who would deny God's authoritative claims of creation and salvation are echoing the same hollow words spoken throughout the millenniums. Jesus himself was confronted with passionate opposition by the Pharisees. They zealously denied him as God's Son and denied his words and deeds as possessing the very authority of

God. Jesus responded passionately to the Pharisees' passionate opposition.

1. Speaking about od (Matthew God 12:22-27)

Those who oppose God often speak against his authority. The Pharisees ques-

tioned the authority by which Jesus was able to heal the demon-possessed man. They accused Jesus of conjuring up the power of Beelzebub to drive out demons. Jesus took the common-sense approach to dismantling their heretical claim. The logic of Satan binding his own demons was nonsensical. Rather than submitting to the authority of God manifested in Jesus' words and deeds, the Pharisees sought to deny God's authority. Atheists simply mirror the prevailing rejection of authority by our culture today. We live in a "vou can't tell me what to think or what to do" culture. Many oppose God because they are suspect of authority. If God is God, then we are not God. If we are not God, then we have no

rightful claim of authority and must surrender to the authoritative claims of God upon our lives. We should passionately oppose those who reject the authoritative claims of God.

2. Speaking about God's Spirit (Matthew 12:28-32)

Those who oppose God often speak against the need for his salvation. This complex passage is a continuation of Jesus' passionate rejection of the Pharisees' heretical claims. The Pharisees veiled their denial of Jesus as the Messiah in an unfounded and unintelligible accusation. The denial of Jesus as God's Redeemer and the Savior of the world is equally a denial of humanity's need for salvation. Jesus addresses the rejection of God's free gift of salvation by warning against speaking blasphemous words against the Holy Spirit. Salvation is solely the work of God; it is God's business. The consistent denial, or blaspheming, of the Holy Spirit and his promptings results in spiritual insensitivity which hardens the heart and stiffens the neck. Those who deny the need for

God's salvation deny the regenerating work of the Holy Sprit and thus stand condemned.

3. Speaking with Care (Matthew 12:33-37)

The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. Jesus declares that our words are spoken from the overflow of the heart (Matthew 12:34). The words we speak and the boldness in which we speak those words is a clear reflection of our heart. Those who passionately speak against God's authority to save and condemn speak judgment upon themselves because their words reveal an unregenerate heart. Those who speak words denying God will be condemned by God, but those who speak THE WORDS OF TRUTH will be rewarded by God. A dear friend in ministry often reminds me that these are serious times that require serious service from serious Christians. We must be serious to weigh the words of others with a discerning mind and to discern the weight of our own words.

Smith is pastor of Bethel Church, Monticello.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type.

Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electroni-cally to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number. Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach

photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs. photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will

be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, M\$ 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

### JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Winstead ordained as deacon, Parkway Church, Morton



2. Children's Church Graduates, Malmaison Church, Carroll County

- Parkway Church, Morton, ordained Kevin Winstead as deacon Sept. 16. Shown are Winstead and pastor John Miles.
- 2. Malmaison Church, Carroll County, recognizes its graduates from children's church. Shown are Charity Long, Rebecca Smith, and pastor Eddie Carpenter.
- 3. The WMU leaders of Macedonia Church, Petal, hosted a Minister's Mates tea party for pastor's wives Sept. 15. Shown are Jeneanne Miller, Lynda Sue Doggett, and Katherine Pittman.



3. Minister's Mates Tea Party, Macedonia Church, Petal



4. Youth Rally, Briar Hill Church, Florence



# BAPTISTS

- 4. Briar Hill Church, Florence, hosted the We Can Make a Difference youth rally for Rankin County in August, with an estimated 300 in attendance. There were four requests for baptism among other decisions. Shown are some of the participants.
- 5. The Triple L Club of Hopewell Church, Little Rock, recently enjoyed a trip to North Carolina to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, the Cove, Biltmore House, and the Ocanaluftee Indian Village. Shown are the participants.
- 6. The Area 9 wMu meeting and luncheon was held Sept. 15 at the Lee Conference Center of the Pearl River Association. Speaker was Lindsey Sellers, former missionary in South Asia. Juanita West gave a report from Pearlington and an offering was received to help with continued recovery. Shown are Laura Beth Kittrell, Jean Bragg, Lindsey Sellers, Delores Cook, Betty Carlisle, and Sue Perry.
- Briar Hill Church, Florence, will host the Revelations in concert Oct. 7, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.
- Winston Association will be helping with the construction of a Korean church in Anchorage, Alaska, in June, 2008. Volunteer carpenters and helpers are urgently needed. For more information, call (662) 803-0112.
- Northminster Church, Jackson, is hosting an Alternative Gifts Fair Nov. 1-3, with local and international charities including Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, Operation Shoestring of Jackson, Stewpot Community Services, among others being represented. For more information, call Jill Buckley at (601) 982-4703.
- Maynard Hill is moving back to the Jackson/ Brandon area and will be available for pulpit supply, interim pastor, pastor of a small congregation, or gospel music concerts. He may be contacted at (662) 756-2201.
- Maybank Church, Hattiesburg, will host The Bibletones in concert Oct. 7, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.



5. Triple L Club, Hopewell Church, Little Rock



6. Area 9 wMu Meeting, Pearl River Association

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Union Ridge Church and Oak Grove Church, Noxapater

Union Ridge Church and Oak Grove Church, Noxapater: Aug. 11, with 16 attending and older youth assisting; Tammy Thomas and Crystal Clark, directors; Jonathan Peebles and Regan Rye, pastors.

Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association: July 9–13; Debbie Kennedy, director.



Concord Church, Noxapater